

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-07 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, OCON, WFC, FAO

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE WORKING GROUP

1. WORKING GROUP ON WFC RULES OF PROCEDURE MOVED VERY SLOWLY MONDAY AND TUESDAY. GROUP CONSIDERING RULES CONSECUTIVELY AND AT COB TUESDAY HAD DISCUSSED SIX RULES, ONLY ONE OF WHICH WAS AGREED TO. MEXICAN CHAIRMAN IS NOT FORCEFUL AND REFRAINS FROM TAKING POSITIVE STEPS TO GAIN CONSENSUS. IT NOW APPEARS DOUBTFUL THAT THE RULES OF PROCEDURE CAN BE AGREED UPON DURING THIS WEEK, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF OBSTRUCTIONIST TACTICS BY GABON REPRESENTATIVE WHOM OTHERS WILL NOT CALL OFF.

2. THE GROUP OF 77 PROVIDED AN ALTERNATIVE DRAFT OF RULE 22, DEFINING THE APPOINTMENT AND DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY. MAJOR POINTS IN THIS DRAFT ARE (1) CHANGING TITLE OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTIVE SECRETARY; (2) THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO BE APPOINTED BY THE COUNCIL AT THE NOMINATION OF THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL IN CONSULTATION WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL; (3) APPOINTMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY FOR FOUR YEARS; (4) RESPECTING REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION IN APPOINTMENT; AND OTHER MINOR POINTS REGARDING ROLE OF EX-

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ECUTIVE SECRETARY.

3. DELEGATION REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED OPINION THAT QUESTIONS OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NOT WITHIN SCOPE OF RULES OF PROCEDURE BUT SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO SECRETARY-GENERAL OR GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

4. GROUP 77 WILL NO DOUBT INSIST ON ALTERATION OF RULES TO REFLECT ABOVE PROCEDURE. USDEL PLANNING TO INSIST OUR OBJECTION BE STATED IN REPORT. OUR STANCE IS THAT QUESTION CANNOT PROPERLY BE ADDRESSED IN RULES OF PROCEDURE. ON SUBSTANCE OF G-77 PROPOSAL WE HAVE INFORMALLY STATED THAT COMPROMISE MIGHT BE FOUND IN FORMULA OF SYG APPOINTING EXECUTIVE SECRETARY WITH CONFIRMATION BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THERE ARE AMPLE PRECEDENTS FOR SUCH A PROCEDURE. WE WILL OPPOSE REQUIREMENT OF CONSENT BY WFC PRESIDENT TO NOMINATION OF EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ON GROUNDS IT WOULD TEND TO SUBORDINATE LATTER TO THE PRESIDENT. THIS OF COURSE IS THE DESIGN OF THE G-77 PROPOSAL, AND IT MAY WELL FIND ITS WAY INTO THE REPORT AS WE WERE UNABLE TO PERSUADE THE CHAIRMAN TO ADOPT A TRUE CONSENSUS PROCEDURE AT THE OUTSET OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS. WE WILL, HOWEVER, IN TURN INSIST THAT OUR DISSENTING VIEWS ALSO BE REFLECTED.

5. ALTHOUGH PROGRESS MAY ACCELERATE AFTER WEDNESDAY MEETING, DELEGATION IS OF OPINION THAT NO CONSENSUS WILL BE REACHED ON MOST RULES. WILL SUPPORT MOVE BY OTHERS TO RECONVENE WORKING GROUP AGAIN LATER IF IT APPEARS LIKELY RULES OF PROCEDURE CAN BE WRAPPED UP.

6. ATMOSPHERE WHICH WAS RESERVED AND OPEN IN EARLY SESSIONS SHOWS SIGNS OF GROUP 77 HEADINESS AND HARDENING OF POSITIONS. VOLPE

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